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ALON: ISRAEL WILL RETURN TO EAST BANK IF EGYPTIANS MOVE TO WEST
M272028 JERUSALEM DOMESTIC SERVICE IN HEBREW 2004 GMT 27 OCT 73 M

(TEXT) DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER YIGAL ALON HAS SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT OPPOSE A RETURN OF THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN ARMIES TO BOTH SIDES OF THE CANAL AS WAS THE SITUATION BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR AS A FIRST STAGE AND AS A STEP FOR TALKS WITH EGYPT. THIS IS POSSIBLE EVEN IF A UN EMERGENCY FORCE TAKES UP POSITIONS ON THE BANKS OF THE CANAL BETWEEN THE TWO ARMIES TO PREVENT UNDESIRABLE ARGUMENTS. ALON BELIEVES THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD SERVE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, BUT HE IS NOT SURE EGYPT WILL ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSAL, AT LEAST IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

SPEAKING IN AN ISRAELI TELEVISION INTERVIEW, ALON SAID THAT PEACE IN THE FUTURE SHOULD BE BASED ON FOUR POINTS: DEFENSIBLE BORDERS; EFFECTIVE RECIPROCAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING CONTROLLED DEMILITARIZATION; A BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN THE PARTIES IN THE DISPUTE; AND PEACE TREATIES.

27 OCT 2049Z MJO/HH*****